

Applicant Name/number _____

Application
Farms for the Future, Phase 1
Business Plan Development Program

If you answer “yes” to the following three questions, you may be eligible for technical assistance to develop a business plan.

Do you:

- ✓ Own 5 or more acres in agricultural production?
- ✓ Anticipate keeping your land in agriculture for at least 5 years?
- ✓ Have an idea for making a change or improvement that will make your farm more economically sound?

If so, it is our goal to help you if we can.

We are looking for a clear picture of where you are and what your vision for your farm business is. The questions in this application are designed to guide you in giving us the information we need. Please do the best you can to describe your current situation and your idea for change in the spaces provided.

These pages are all the program’s Review Panel considers when considering your application.

It typically takes a farm 6 months to complete a business plan. Technical assistance teams will be assembled in mid-October.

The application deadline for assistance with business planning is August 26, 2005.

Please return your completed application with one required attachment to:
Kerri Sands, CEI, 2 Portland Fish Pier, Suite 201, Portland, ME, 04101

Name _____

Farm _____ County _____

Address _____

Town _____ Zip _____

Phone (1) _____ Phone (2) _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

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1. Town _____ County _____

2. Total farmland acreage owned _____ Total owned acres in production _____

3. How long have you been farming this land? _____ How long have you owned it? _____

4. Acres you lease and operate _____ Acres leased by you that someone else operates _____

5. Acres enrolled in Maine's current-use tax programs: Tree Growth _____ Open Space _____ Farmland _____

6. Have you sold or donated development rights on your farm? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(If you answered yes, you will still be eligible for Phase 1- technical assistance,
but you may not be eligible for a Phase 2 - implementation grant.)

7. What is your farming background, and what else in your background contributes to your capability as a farm manager?

8. Please describe your idea for change in 6 words or less and then in a paragraph.

(Please specify the anticipated economic benefit of this change.)

9. Will this change have a positive effect on natural resources and the environment? ? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(If yes, please describe.)

10. Please describe the suitability and productivity of the land currently in agricultural use based upon its soil classification, physical features, slope and location.

11. Please complete the chart below.

Equipment	Condition	Buildings (type & size)	Condition

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12. What was your gross income from the farm in 2004? \$ _____

13. What is primarily produced on the farm?

(If more than one crop or product, please number in order of most income produced to least income produced)

__vegetables	__herbs	__pigs
__berries	__ornamentals	__sheep
__orchard	__hay	__poultry
__maple syrup	__grain	__horses
__greenhouse	__beef	__commodity _____
__flowers	__dairy	__other _____

14. Please identify acres, infrastructure and sales per crop or product.

Farm Crop or Product	Acres used	Building(s) used	2005 gross / net anticipated	2004 gross / net	2003 gross / net
			/	/	/
			/	/	/
			/	/	/
			/	/	/
			/	/	/

15. Please identify any farm debt, including mortgages. If none, please state so.

Amount outstanding	Held by	Payoff date

16. Please identify the family members working on the farm.

Family member	% of time working on the farm	% of time working off the farm *	Off-farm income
Owner:		*	\$
			\$
			\$
			\$

*If the owner is not principally engaged in agricultural activities, please state the short-and long-term plans for keeping the property in agricultural use.

17. Please describe any pressure that might cause you or your family to stop farming.

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18. To complete this application you must fill-in and sign the statement below.

I/we, _____,
(please print)

agree that the information in this form is factual, and that I/we authorize a representative of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to conduct a field inspection of the land to be covered by the business plan.

Signature of Owner(s)

19. To complete this application you must also attach copies of your IRS Schedule F or 1120S forms for the 3 most recent tax years.

- If these forms are not available, please explain why not _____

- Please also describe the condition of the acreage and explain what you have been doing toward making the farm viable _____

? If you have questions about this application or the Farms for the Future Program, please contact:

Kerri Sands, CEI, 2 Portland Fish Pier, Suite 201, Portland, ME 04101

Phone: 207-772-5356, ext. 114; e-mail: kcs@ceimaine.org

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NOTE:

The following additional information is required of all successful applicants. You do not need to submit these items until you are accepted into the program. If you do receive a grant of technical assistance, I will ask for these items immediately. Therefore it is strongly advised that you line up this information in advance, especially the NRCS map and farm conservation plan. Please contact Kerri Sands for more information about how to obtain these items.

- A map of the property on a United States Geological Survey (USGS) Topographical Map showing the land area to be covered by the plan, and the land to be covered by a possible farmland protection agreement, if different than the land covered by the plan.
- Letters of reference concerning management capability.
- A copy of the current deed(s) to all the parcels of the property and a plan recorded in the registry of deeds delineating the property, book and page numbers included.

Recommended but not required:

- A United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) map and farm conservation plan, or its equivalent, showing the breakdown of various soil types and acreage possessing soil capability Classes I through VI. (If you do not have this item, you should begin the process now.)